

Great Britain, London

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Speaking Club online/offline 2021



Task 1. Ok, Google 😊
Find 1-2 interesting and maybe unusual
facts about Great Britain and London
(5 min.)

The British Isles

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The British Isles is the name for a collection of about 4.000 islands.

Great Britain, as Britain or GB, is the name for the largest of the islands. It includes England, Scotland, Wales.

The United Kingdom (UK) includes England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland.

People from England are English; people from Wales are Welsh; people from Scotland are Scottish; people from Ireland are Irish.



The British Flag



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The British Flag, known as the Union Jack, is a combination of three flags:



The Saint Andrew's Cross is the Scottish flag.

The Saint Patrick's Cross is the former flag of Ireland.



The Saint George's Cross is the English flag.

Task 2. Ok.Google 😊

Find information about the most and the least favourite holidays celebrated in Great Britain.
(5 min.)

JANUARY

New Year's Eve: all over Britain on 31 December there are New Year celebrations. Most people see in the New Year with friends and relations. At midnight on New Year's Eve, everybody joins hands and sings *Auld Lang Syne*, a poem by the Scottish poet Robert Burns. In Scotland and the North of England, people go first footing. They call at friends' houses, trying to be the first person through the door after midnight. To symbolise good luck, the visitor carries a piece of coal and a glass of water.

New Year's Day: on New Year's Day (1 January) people make New Year's resolutions. They decide to do something to improve their lives. For example, people decide to give up smoking or go to the gym once a week.



The luckiest type of first footer is a tall, dark man.

FEBRUARY

Crufts Dog Show: dog breeders from all over the world bring their valuable dogs to take part in Crufts Dog Show in London. There are prizes for most breeds and one for the best dog, who is given the title Crufts Supreme Champion.

Saint Valentine's Day: Saint Valentine's Day is 14 February. People send a Valentine's card to someone they love, fancy, admire or secretly like. Usually you don't sign your name. The person who receives the card has to guess who sent it.



A Valentine's card.

Roses are red
Violets are blue
Sugar is sweet
And so are you

A traditional verse inside a Valentine's card.

MARCH

The Boat Race: this rowing race between the universities of Oxford and Cambridge has been held on the River Thames in London almost every year since 1836. The length of the course is 4½ miles (7.2 kilometres).

Pancake Day: Pancake Day, or Shrove Tuesday, is the day before Lent starts. Lent is a Christian fast which lasts for 40 days before Easter. Pancake Day is traditionally a day of celebration, the last day that you can eat what you want until Easter. Pancakes are made of flour, eggs and milk: all things which should not be eaten during Lent. Nowadays people don't fast, but some people give up sweets or smoking.



This is a pancake race. Each competitor carries a pancake in a frying pan. While running, they have to throw the pancake in the air and catch it again in the pan. The competitors are usually women.

APRIL

April Fool's Day: April Fool's Day is 1 April. You can play jokes on people, even on teachers. When they discover the joke, you say, "April Fool!". You have to play the joke before 12 o'clock midday, otherwise the joke's on you.



Easter eggs are made of chocolate and usually wrapped in silver paper and bows.

Easter: schools close for two weeks at Easter. On Good Friday, people eat hot cross buns, which are small sweet rolls. They eat them toasted with butter. People give each other chocolate Easter eggs on Easter Sunday. The eggs are usually hollow and contain sweets.

The London Marathon: this is one of the biggest marathons in the world. Each year about 30,000 people start the race and about 25,000 finish. Some people take part to raise money for charity, often wearing costumes. There is also a race for people in wheelchairs.

MAY

May Day: in villages throughout Britain on 1 May you can see children dancing round the maypole and singing songs. It is a pagan festival to celebrate the end of winter and welcome summer.

FA (Football Association) Cup Final: this is the biggest day in the football calendar. Two English football clubs play to win the FA Cup. The match takes place at Wembley Stadium in London. Scotland has its own FA Cup Final, played at Hampden Park in Glasgow.

Chelsea Flower Show: this is Britain's most important flower and garden show. Thousands of people come to see the prize flowers and specially built gardens.



People celebrating May Day. The maypole is a symbol of fertility.

An FA Cup Final programme.



JUNE



It is traditional for men and women to go to the horse-racing at Ascot wearing their best hats.

Royal Ascot: this is one of the biggest horse-race meetings in Britain. It is held at Ascot, in the south of England. The Queen drives there from Windsor Castle. Ascot lasts for four days.

Trooping the Colour: this is the second Saturday in June and celebrates the Queen's official birthday (her real birthday is 21 April). She watches a parade of hundreds of soldiers. There is lots of marching, military music and the soldiers are dressed in colourful uniforms.

JULY

Wimbledon: this is one of the four great world tennis championships and the only one which is played on grass. It is held in the last week of June and the first week of July at Wimbledon in south-west London.

Henley Regatta: this is the largest rowing competition in Britain. It is held at Henley-on-Thames, where the Thames runs in a straight line for over two kilometres and makes it an ideal place for rowing. The regatta, or boat racing competition, has been held there almost every year since 1839.

Saint Swithin's Day: it is said that if it rains on Saint Swithin's Day, 15 July, it will rain for 40 days afterwards.



Tickets for Wimbledon are sold on the day. Lots of people queue overnight to get tickets for the Centre Court, the best tennis court. The queue often turns into a party.



AUGUST



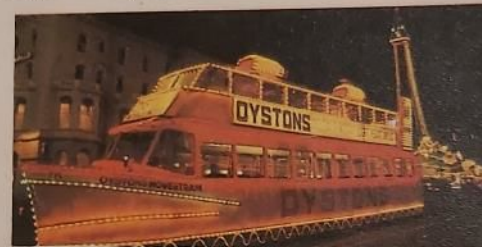
Thousands of people go to the Notting Hill Carnival for the party atmosphere!

Notting Hill Carnival: the last weekend in August there is a big carnival at Notting Hill in west London. People who take part dress up in fabulous costumes. Steel bands play African and Caribbean dance music and people dance and blow whistles. It's the biggest carnival outside Brazil.

The Proms: this is a popular series of classical music concerts. The season lasts seven weeks and there are concerts every night. Most of the concerts are performed at the Royal Albert Hall, in London. A lot of people like to go to the Last Night of the Proms. The orchestra plays popular tunes. People sing along and wave flags.

SEPTEMBER

Blackpool Illuminations: every year 16 million visitors go to the holiday resort of Blackpool. When summer ends there are still things to see. From 1 September to 1 November, the promenade has a special illuminated display at night. The theme of the display changes every year.



Blackpool Illuminations along seven miles of promenades is the most visited attraction in Britain.

Harvest Festivals: in the autumn, harvest festivals are held. This is a Christian festival and churches are decorated with fruit, vegetables and flowers that people bring. Traditionally, the festival was held to say thank you to God for a good harvest.



People put their food and vegetables on the altar at the harvest festival.

OCTOBER

International Motor Show: every second year, car manufacturers from all over the world display their latest models at the National Exhibition Centre (NEC) in Birmingham.

Hallowe'en: 31 October is Hallowe'en. This pagan festival celebrates the return of the souls of the dead who come back to visit places where they used to live. In the evening there are lots of Hallowe'en parties, or fancy dress parties. People dress up as witches, ghosts, devils, cats, bats or anything scary. Houses are decorated with pumpkins with candles put inside. Some children follow the American custom called Trick or Treat. They knock at your house and ask, "Trick or treat?". If you give them some money or some sweets (a treat), they go away. Otherwise, they play a trick on you, like squirting water in your face.

HOW TO MAKE A HALLOWE'EN LANTERN

1. Cut two eyes, a nose and a mouth on one side of the hollowed pumpkin.
2. Cut the top and the bottom off the pumpkin. Keep the bottom piece for later.
3. Lower the 'head' over the candle, and light the candle.
4. Stand a candle in the piece cut off the bottom of the pumpkin.
5. Scoop the pulp from inside the pumpkin with a spoon.



NOVEMBER

London to Brighton Veteran Car Rally: this is usually the first Sunday in November. Hundreds of veteran cars are driven from London to Brighton, on the south coast of England.

The cars in the London to Brighton Veteran Car Rally were all built before 1905.



Guy Fawkes' Night (Bonfire Night): Guy Fawkes is Britain's most famous terrorist. On 5 November 1605, Guy Fawkes planned to blow up the Houses of Parliament and the King of England, James I. The plot was discovered and Guy Fawkes was hanged. Every year on 5 November, people celebrate by setting off fireworks. They also make models of Guy Fawkes and burn them on big bonfires.

Enjoy bonfire night in safety



DECEMBER

Pantomimes: these are plays put on before Christmas, usually for children. They are based on fairy tales, such as *Cinderella* or *Aladdin*, and mix comedy, song and dance.

Christmas cards: most people send Christmas cards to their friends and relations. Some shops sell charity cards and the profits made from selling these cards go to good causes.

Christmas Day: the most important day of the holiday is 25 December, or Christmas Day. Children wake up early to find a stocking full of small presents on their bed. Other presents, opened when everyone is together, are arranged around the Christmas tree, which is usually decorated with multicoloured lights. A traditional Christmas dinner includes roast turkey, roast potatoes and brussel sprouts, followed by Christmas pudding.

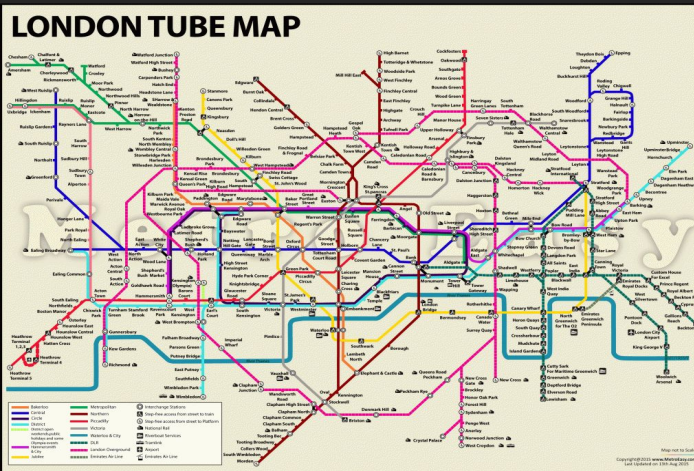
Boxing Day: this is 26 December. It is usually spent in front of the TV recovering from Christmas Day.



A family enjoying a traditional Christmas dinner on 25 December.

Getting around the town

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London
Tube



Black Cab

Double-decker



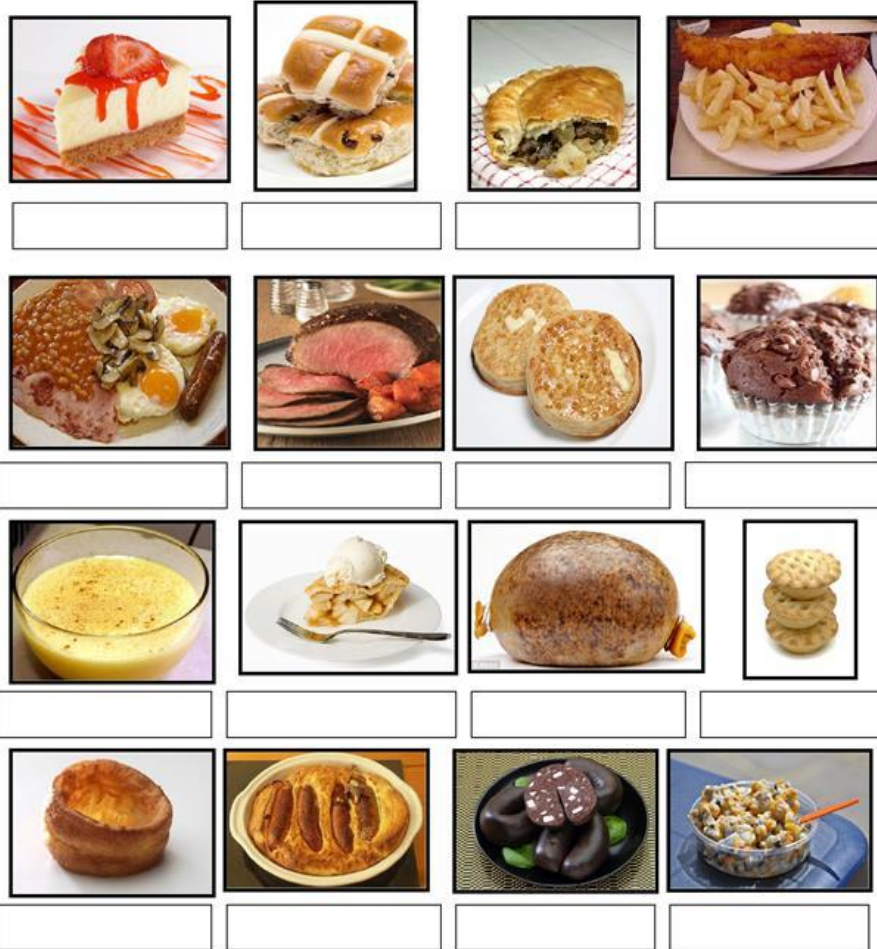
Traditional British Food and FAST FOOD



BRITISH FOOD

Choose the name from the box and write under the correct picture.

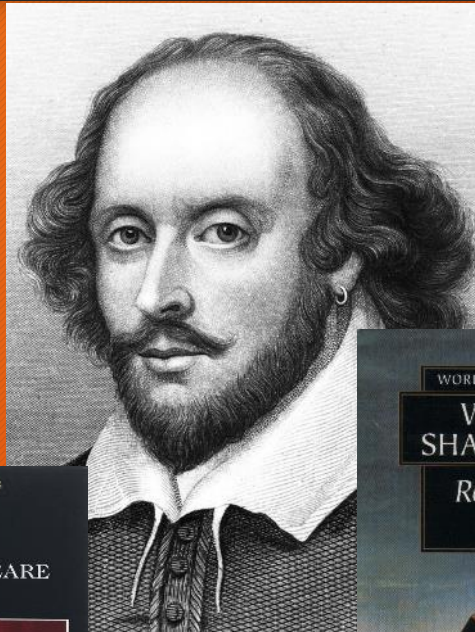
* chocolate muffin * hot cross buns * haggis * Yorkshire pudding
* black pudding * fish and chips * custard * toad in the hole
* strawberry cheesecake * English breakfast * roast beef
* cockles * pasties * apple crumble * crumpets * apple pies



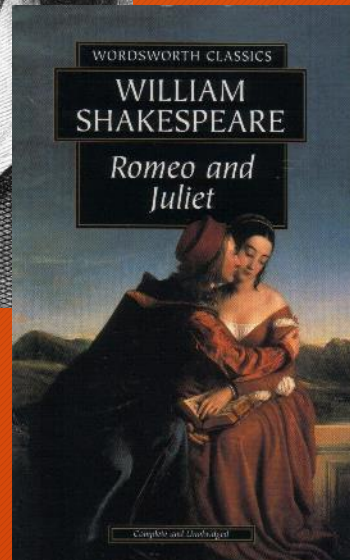
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English Literature

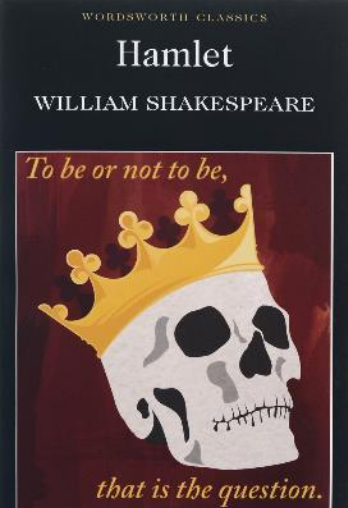
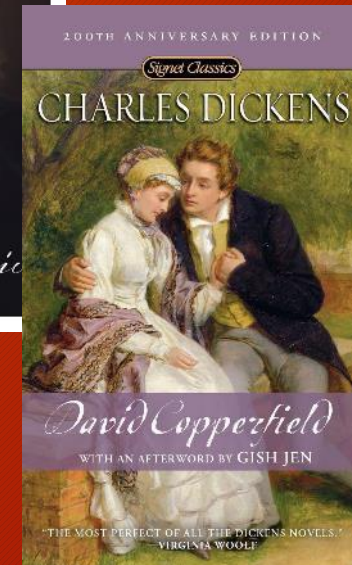
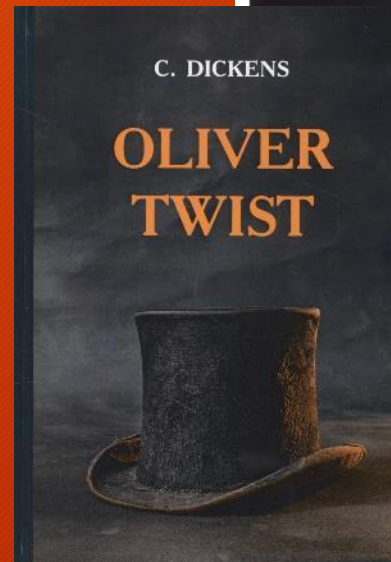
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WILLIAM SHEAKSPEAR



CHARLES DICKENS



The Main Sightseeings of London

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TOWER
BRIDGE

The Main Sightseeings of London

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Buckingham
Palace

The Main Sightseeings of London

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Houses of
Parliament

The Main Sightseeings of London

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London Eye

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Picadilly
Circus

The Main Sightseeings of London

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Nelson's
Column

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Big Ben



Thanks a lot for your attention

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Much information is taken from the book IN BRITAIN by Michael Vaughan-Rees